



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

# CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## PRAIRIE KNIGHTS: *a vacation destination*

*Known for gaming, Prairie Knights Casino & Resort recently expanded. In this month's center pages, read how the addition made this Mor-Gran-Sou business consumer more family friendly, and why it's a popular weekend destination.*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PRAIRIE KNIGHTS CASINO

### JUNE 2011 IN THIS ISSUE

- Casino adds addition, guest amenities
- Linemen take skills to Burke-Divide
- Co-op announces board candidates
- SAVE THE DATE!
- Meeting minutes ... and more!

# Make Prairie Knights a regular mini-vacation destination

by Carmen Devney

Looking for an affordable weekend getaway? Try Prairie Knights Casino and Resort — and bring your family.

Located north of Fort Yates on Highway 1806, Prairie Knights recently doubled in size, adding rooms and amenities including a swimming pool and slide, fitness center, laundry room and enhanced parking. The expansion is scheduled to open to the public in early July.

Everett Iron Eyes, Jr., general manager of Prairie Knights, says the addition was necessary to add more rooms to accommodate guests who wanted to attend concerts and other events, and stay overnight. In planning the expansion, he says management took into consideration the amenities most requested by guests, and have turned the resort into a more family friendly destination.

"We want to give our guests the best possible experience," he shares.

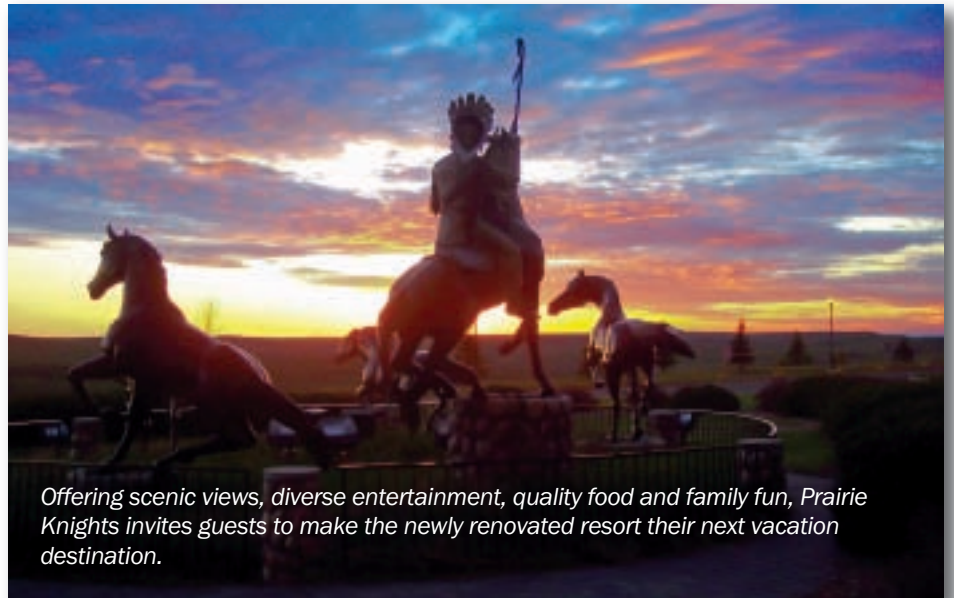
From getting sprayed by a playful mushroom in the large pool area to playing in the nearby arcade, children will have more to do, explains Dave Snider, marketing and sales manager.

## A QUALITY EXPERIENCE

Prairie Knights Casino's property has evolved significantly over the years. The casino initially opened on Dec. 14, 1993. On July 5, 1995, 70 lodge rooms were added.

"At that same time, we acquired the Quick Mart," Snider reflects. "Then on June 28, 2001, we added the Pavilion and an extension to the lodge that took us up to 96 rooms. This gave us the opportunity to serve more guests at one time." On Aug. 18, 1998, the Marina was finished.

A business consumer of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, Prairie Knights Casino has used the Pavilion to host the co-op's



*Offering scenic views, diverse entertainment, quality food and family fun, Prairie Knights invites guests to make the newly renovated resort their next vacation destination.*

annual meeting for the past seven years. This year marks the eighth.

Construction on the most recent addition started in November 2009. Upon completion, the facility will have the capacity to host larger banquets and conferences.

The décor within the expansion replicates the style of the original lodge. Featuring Native American artwork throughout, Snider says the rooms feature Sealy memory foam beds, high-definition televisions and free Internet to guests. The new rooms, which are all smoke-free, have thicker walls which will minimize neighborly noise. Snider indicates the addition, which connects to the existing lodge in several places, has been quite an investment.

"We never skimp on quality," he assures.

Prairie Knights Casino & Resort now has 200 rooms including 12 suites, eight of which are new. To accommodate guests with disabilities, Snider says the hotel has some handicap-accessible rooms that feature a roll-in shower and larger bathroom.

Snider, who has been with Prairie Knights Casino & Resort for

*This rendered image shows what Prairie Knights will look like upon completion of the building enhancements. The addition will be open to guests starting in early July.*





*Prairie Knights guests can dine at the Hunters Club or Feast of the Rock, an all-you-can-eat buffet. Reservations are not needed, but advance notice for large parties is appreciated.*

*Slot machines consume electricity on a 24/7 basis. Mor-Gran-Sou's interconnected electric service and Prairie Knights' backup generator protect guests from experiencing power outages.*

the past 17 years, says when water levels are good, the marina is another asset for guests who like to fish and camp. The resort offers 32 RV spots and 24 boat slips for frequent guests.

the power or water goes out, people come to Prairie Knights Casino. We are always open," he states. "In the event of a power outage, there are no dark rooms."

### ENHANCED ELECTRIC SERVICE

From plugging in their RVs to playing the slot machines, guests need electricity. To accommodate the resort's electricity needs, Mor-Gran-Sou built a substation on the property. A substation is a facility that "steps down" or reduces voltage, sending it along power lines to a consumer's transformer and meter.

From the moment guests walk in the door, Iron Eyes says he wants people to feel like they are visiting and staying at a first-class resort.


"This property is second-to-none in our area. Combined with our good service, we are hoping to do well," he summarizes.

Brent Alkire, Mor-Gran-Sou's area foreman in Fort Yates, says Mor-Gran-Sou put in all-new electric service for the casino and resort's new addition, which has separately metered electric heat. He indicates the three-phase, 1,000-kilowatt service is oversized to accommodate future growth.

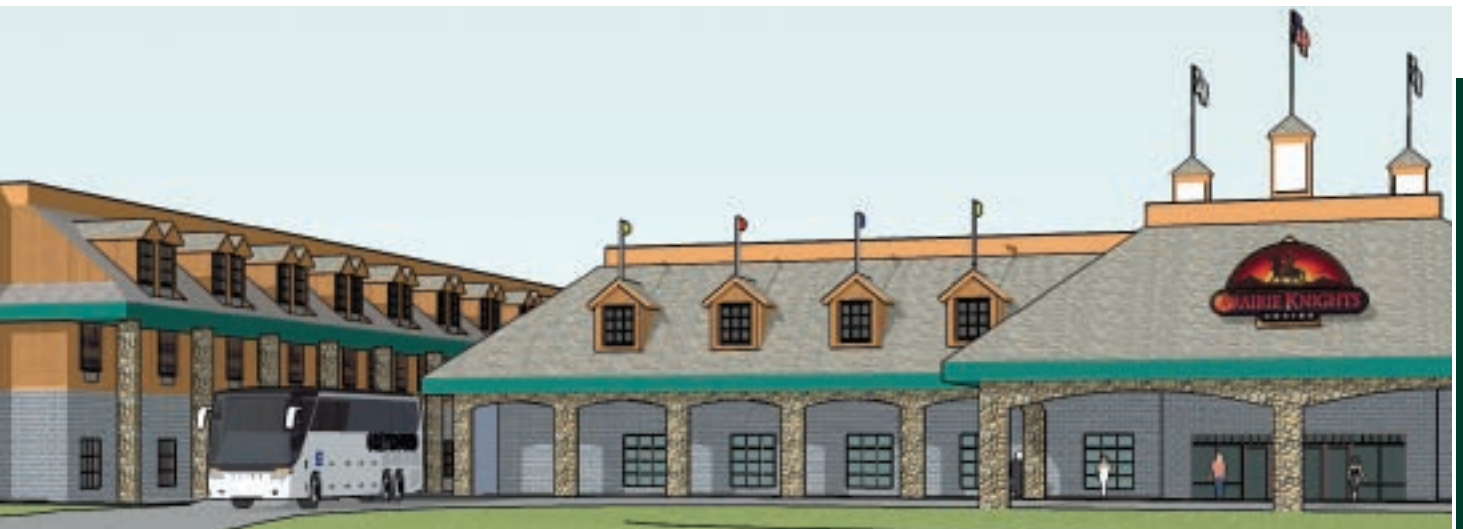
To protect the casino and other co-op members from a power outage, Mor-Gran-Sou has built redundancies into the system which allow the co-op to loop or interconnect electric service. If distribution service is temporarily lost, the co-op can backfeed electricity from different substations to restore power.

To prepare for the unexpected power outage, Iron Eyes says Prairie Knights invested in a high-quality generator that can power all the rooms and game floor.

"We are a collection point of sorts. If there is a disaster, and



**Upcoming concerts at Prairie Knights:**  
**July 23:** The Oak Ridge Boys  
**Aug. 13:** Skid Row with Warrant  
**Sept. 10:** Little River Band  
 Tickets may be purchased from Guest Services at Prairie Knights, or at select Dan's Supermarkets in Bismarck, Mandan and Dickinson. They may also be purchased by calling (800) 585-3737 or visiting StarTickets.com.



# DISASTER STRIKES NORTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

*Linemen thankful to help another co-op*



PHOTO COURTESY OF BURKE-DIVIDE

by Carmen Devney

April storms can be especially brutal on the transmission and distribution of electricity, as Mor-Gran-Sou members know all too well following last year's Good Friday snow and ice storm. This year, the member-owners of Burke Divide Electric Cooperative in northwestern North Dakota experienced a similar blizzard on April 30 that left thousands of people without power. Keith Thelen, line superintendent for Burke-Divide, estimates the heavy, wet snow and high winds damaged more than 100 poles. Around 70 cross arms were repaired or replaced, and countless wires were reattached to insulators. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, based out of Williston, also received significant damage.

In addition to Burke-Divide's line crews, 42 additional linemen were brought in from neighboring cooperatives to help with the restoration process including some from North Central Electric, Verendrye Electric and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, as well as three construction companies. Mor-Gran-Sou employees Gary Fitterer, lead man, and Clint Begger, journeymen lineman, volunteered to help fix outages and get consumers back online.

Fitterer says muddy, swamp-like conditions forced the men to leave their pickup on the road and use a Polaris Ranger with tracks to get to the damage. Then, they climbed pole after pole.

"We just used our belts and hooks, and climbed the poles in hip waders," he describes.

Fitterer and Begger spent four days in the Burke-Divide service area helping to restore power. Fitterer indicates the two were fortunate to reserve a hotel room, because most motels are booked indefinitely with oil patch workers. Much of the three-phase line the two worked on during the restoration process led to and from the oil wells.

Working long hours to restore power following a storm is nothing new to linemen. They choose the career in knowing they will sometimes work long shifts in all types of weather conditions. But this storm was especially hard for Begger's family. His wife is expecting their third child in July, so having her husband gone for the better part of a week was a challenge.

"I guess we do what's got to be done," Begger says.

In comparison to the 10,000-plus poles Mor-Gran-Sou lost during last year's April storm, 100 downed poles in the Burke-Divide service area didn't seem too bad to Begger, who says he breathed a sigh of relief. While he doesn't want any consumer to go without power, he acknowledges he is grateful the Mor-Gran-Sou membership was spared.

"This time, it was really nice to get to go help someone else," he concludes.



PHOTO BY GARY FITTERER

*Swamp-like conditions forced the men to leave their pickup on the road and climb pole after pole.*



*Burke-Divide Electric lost poles, wire and related equipment in a late April blizzard. Mor-Gran-Sou Lead Man Gary Fitterer, left, and Lineman Clint Begger, right, volunteered to help restore power. With headquarters in Columbus and a service center in Kenmare, Burke-Divide serves all or parts of Burke, Divide, Mountrail, Ward and Renville counties.*

# Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for five Mor-Gran-Sou members vying for one of three board director positions up for reelection in July. The three board positions sought include: one for Grant County, one for the Mandan area and one for Sioux County.

The board of directors set March 10 as the deadline for receiving members' completed Declaration of Candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 22. At that meeting, the committee declared that the

candidates' names received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 29, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

## Grant County

Sara Meier, Carson  
Casey Wells, Carson

## Mandan Area

Bob J. Leingang, Mandan  
Karmen Siirtola, Mandan

## Sioux County

Joe Dunn, Fort Yates

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Friday, July 15, at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort. The address is 7932 Highway 24, Fort Yates. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. CT with the banquet and business meeting to follow.

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed later this month.



Participating communities include St. Anthony, Flasher, Carson, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. Rural residents will be holding sales, too, so watch for signs along the route. More than 100 sales are planned during the event.

## North Dakota's largest rummage sale event June 17 and 18

North Dakota's largest rummage sale event, the 10th annual Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, is set for June 17 and 18. Communities along Highway 21 in southwestern North Dakota will host citywide rummage sales from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT.

Participating communities include St. Anthony, Flasher, Carson, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. Rural residents will hold sales as well, so bargain hunters should watch for signs along the route.

"With approximately 100 rummage sales over the 100-mile route, this is the largest rummage sale event in North Dakota and possibly the Upper Midwest," says coordinator Luann Dart, Elgin. "Anyone who loves rummage sales and is looking for a bargain will have a great time at this event."

Listings for each community's sales will be available at certain locations in that community, such as restaurants or gas stations.

"This is the only event of its kind in North Dakota, and it really is fun to travel the route and browse all the sales in each

community," Dart says. "You'll find all kinds of treasures and have fun, too!"

The event began 10 years ago as a cooperative effort by the participating communities to bring tourists into the area. Hundreds of visitors from across the state drive the route each year.

A small group of volunteers from each community spearheads the event each year and advertising expenses are paid with donations from local, civic-minded organizations, including the Grant County Job Development Authority and the Elgin Lions. West River Telecommunications, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and Slope Electric Cooperative have also supported the event with donations.

The Highway 21 Treasure Hunt is a "North Dakota Legendary" event. Visit N.D. Tourism at [www.ndtourism.com](http://www.ndtourism.com).

"This year, take a trip along Highway 21 and have some fun during the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt," Dart says.

For more information, contact Dart at (701) 584-2172.



# Mor-Gran-Sou connects members to **UTILITY REBATES**

**M**embers, if you are thinking about making energy-efficiency improvements to your home or place of business, there is a great rebate program available through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. More than \$2 million was set aside for electric cooperative members in North Dakota, making NOW the smartest, most economical time to make residential and commercial energy-efficiency improvements. The N.D. Department of Commerce launched the utility rebate program on June 1, 2010.

## **RESIDENTIAL REBATES**

Residential members will be able to apply for more than one category of rebate, but the total residential rebate maximum is \$5,000. Consider upgrading or retrofitting with Energy Star-rated products or renewable energy systems including an air-source heat pump, a central air conditioner, a water heater, a geothermal heat pump, and solar applications and wind turbines (subject to utility interconnect policy). Rebates are also available to help with the costs of an energy audit, and to add attic and wall insulation.

## **COMMERCIAL REBATES**

Commercial members can apply for up to \$15,000 in utility rebates on energy-efficient products and services including lighting, motors, central air conditioners, building recommissioning, custom design, energy audits, geothermal heat pumps, solar applications and wind turbines (subject to utility interconnect policy). To receive certain commercial rebates, an applicant must include documentation that federally approved Davis-Bacon wages were paid on the project.

Both residential and commercial rebates also offer two demand response program rebates for thermal-storage central furnace with an air

source heat pump and thermal storage water heater program. For program details, go to: [www.ndarec.com](http://www.ndarec.com).

To take advantage of this generous rebate program:

1. Members and contractors should stop by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric headquarters, or contact us.
2. Get the applicable rebate form,
3. Study the specific product requirements,
4. Talk to cooperative staff to make sure a product meets those specific requirements,
5. Ask our co-op to verify that there is still money available through the utility rebate program,
6. Purchase and install the energy-efficiency product, and
7. Fill out the rebate application and return the completed paperwork to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-op.

You must include a receipt that shows the date of purchase is June 1, 2010, or later. Once the paperwork is filled out and returned, it will then be submitted to the N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), which will review the information for eligibility. NDAREC will then issue a rebate check and forward it on to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric for delivery to the consumer. All rebates will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is open to all electric co-op members in North Dakota. The program ends when the money runs out, or on Dec. 31, 2011, whichever comes first.

There are a few limitations to the utility rebate program. In order to be eligible for a rebate a consumer must purchase the equipment or product on or after June 1, 2010. Rebates are not available for federal, state or local gov-

ernment agencies, including public schools. And if members make energy-efficiency improvements prior to the launch of the program, they will not qualify for a retroactive rebate.

Some facilities are also ineligible for rebates, including swimming pools, golf courses, gambling establishments, aquariums and zoos.

This program, combined with current tax credits for energy efficiency and Mor-Gran-Sou's other programs, will mean plenty of energy investment dollars going back into your pocket. There has probably never been a smarter time to make energy efficiency investments. By installing high-efficiency energy systems or renewable-energy technologies, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members will save immediately with the rebates and credits and receive future benefits from lower energy bills.

As always, the member services department at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is ready to help you, our member-owners. To learn how these utility rebates and other programs can benefit you, especially if you are considering energy-efficiency improvements, call Mor-Gran-Sou at (701) 597-3301 or (800) 750-8212 today.





# Play up outdoor electrical safety to children

**W**arm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Safe Electricity recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

“Help keep your kids out of harm’s way when they play outdoors,” said Molly Hall, executive director of Safe Electricity. “Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize they should never climb or play near them.”

**Safe Electricity recommends that children be taught to follow these rules:**

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large, open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that’s near power lines, don’t climb up to get it. Contact your local electric cooperative for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don’t play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.

- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can be deadly. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call your local electric cooperative instead.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don’t have them.

Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets.

“Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix,” Hall warns. “Teach older children to use caution before plugging in a radio, CD player or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.”

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report to an adult any fallen or dangling wires.

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



Meeting date: April 27

- Approved the March Board meeting minutes
- Approved one work order inventory
- Approved application for capital credit retirements to estates
- Approved ERC Loan Agreement Renewal with RUS
- Approved resolution to increase Cooperative credit card limit
- Approved withdrawing membership from NRTC
- Approved resolution for updates to NRECA 401(k) plan
- Accepted the audit report for 2010 from Brady, Martz & Associates
- Appointed directors to attend the CoBank North Dakota Customer Meeting
- Heard update on FEMA hazard mitigation & financial information
- Heard update on 3C Construction, LLC
- Heard update on IEA, LLC (the Alliance)
- Heard department updates
- Heard reports on meetings attended

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

June 29 in Fort Yates at the Mor-Gran-Sou Service Center at 10:30 a.m. CT

July 22 at co-op headquarters in Flasher at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at [cternes@morgransou.com](mailto:cternes@morgransou.com), or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chairman Dave Archambault II or Alliance Co-Manager Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form.

# Happy Father's Day June 19



## Steer clear of power lines

Electricity is essential on any farm or ranch. Imagine being without it! But electricity must be treated with respect to avoid serious accidents. Most accidents could be prevented by following a few safety tips from your local electric cooperative:

- To prevent accidental contact with power lines, everyone who drives farm equipment should know the height of all your farm equipment and the height of those power lines. A good rule is to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.
  - Be extra careful when moving irrigation pipes. Many electrical accidents on farms occur when irrigation pipes are accidentally raised into power lines. The combination can be deadly!
  - Avoid moving large equipment alone when you know power lines are in your path. Have someone watch as you drive equipment to ensure that you stay clear of power lines, poles and other electric cooperative equipment.
  - When moving hay, be sure you have plenty of clearance between any power lines on your route and the stacked hay.

### MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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Flasher, N.D. 58535-0297

Phone: (701) 597-3301 - Flasher

(701) 663-0297 - Mandan

Toll-free: (800) 750-8212 Fax: (701) 597-3915

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES

1 (800) 795-0555 OR 811

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman .....Dave Archambault II  
 Vice Chairman. ....Vernard Frederick  
 Secretary-Treasurer .....Pam Geiger  
 Directors ..... Leland "Judge" Barth,  
 Mark Doll, Joe Dunn, Robert Gaebe,  
 Bob J. Leingang, Casey Wells

#### MANAGEMENT

Alliance Co-Mgr. ....Donald A. Franklund  
 Alliance Co-Mgr. ....Clayton O. Hoffman  
 Mgr. of Admin. Serv.....Cindy G. Ternes  
 Mgr. of Member Serv.....Jackie Miller  
 Mgr. of Operations.....Randy Ressler  
 Chief of Staff/Line Supt.....Jason Bentz  
 Alliance Chief Info. Officer .....Charlie Dunbar  
 Alliance Chief Fin. Officer .....Travis Kupper  
 Alliance Human Res. Mgr.....Sienna Sailer  
 Alliance Mgr. of Engr. Services. ....Rob Kelly

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

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